IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claims 20 and 21, cancel claims 6, 16 and 18, and amend claims 1-5, 7-15, 17 and 19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a signal digitized at~~with~~ a predetermined sampling ~~scanning~~ frequency~~, with a word width of n bits,~~ from a data source to a data sink in a data transmission system~~,~~ having~~with~~ a predetermined operating frequency~~, which has~~ and having at least one channel with a width of m bits, the digitized signal having an original data word width of n bits, where ~~such that~~ n is greater than m, ~~and~~ the operating frequency being ~~is~~ greater than the sampling ~~scanning~~ frequency, the method comprising the steps of:

decomposing each original data word of the digitized signal into at least two partial data words, each partial data word having ~~with~~ a width ~~that is~~ less than m, where n equals fourteen and m equals eight;

assigning an identifier for each of the partial data words that identifies the position of the partial data word in the original data word; and

transmitting the ~~, and that~~ at least two partial data words ~~obtained from one data word are transmitted~~ on the at least one channel ~~together with an identifier that identifies the position of the partial word in the original data word~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein, after transmission on at least one channel, the original data word is~~ further comprising the step of reconstructing~~ed~~ the original data word from the at least two partial data words through use ~~by means~~ of the identifier.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where~~in~~ the identifier comprises one bit.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where~~in~~ as many as a partial data words of an original ~~one~~ data word are transmitted on the at least one channel when ~~if~~ the operating frequency is at least a times the sampling ~~scanning frequency and less than (a-1) times~~, where~~in~~ a is an integer value.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, where~~in~~ a ~~is~~ equals ~~to~~ two.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1~~6~~, further comprising the steps of:

sampling an analog signal at a resolution of sixteen bits; and

rounding the sixteen-bit sampled analog signal to fourteen bits to obtain ~~wherein~~ each original data word ~~is obtained by rounding to fourteen bits an analog signal scanned with a resolution of sixteen bits~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

right-shifting ~~wherein~~ bits 2 to 8 of the sixteen~~16~~-bit sampled analog signal ~~data word are right-shifted~~ by one bit; ~~in order to reduce the width,~~ and

assigning ~~that~~ the identifier to the least significant bit of each of the ~~of the byte as the~~ first and ~~or~~ second partial data words ~~is entered into the respective least significant bits of the resulting two bytes~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where~~in~~ the sampled analog signal comprises ~~digitized signal is obtained by sampling~~ spoken speech.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2~~9~~, where~~in,~~ the step of reconstructing the original data word comprises the step of ~~in the data sink, the two partial words are~~ recombininged ~~the at least two partial data words~~ into the original data word by shifting each bit of one of the at least two partial data words ~~the least significant byte~~ one bit to the left.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, where~~in~~ the two least significant bits of the ~~recombined~~ reconstructed original data word are set to a prescribed value.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where~~in~~ the data sink forwards a digital signal at the operating frequency by outputting each received data word several times.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, where~~in~~ the data sink forwards the digital signal over a low-pass filter.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where~~in~~ the data transmission system is configured and arranged as a MOST network.

15. (Currently Amended) A data source for transmitting a digitized signal with a word width of n bits in a data transmission system, which has at least one channel with a width of m bits, where ~~such that~~ n is greater than, comprising ~~by~~ a logic circuit to decompose each data word into

a plurality of partial words each with a width less than m bits and to add an identifier to at least one of the resulting partial words~~,~~ to identify the position of the partial data word, where the logic circuit shifts bits 2 to 8 of a 16-bit data word of the digitized signal by one bit to the right, and enters an identifier for each of the first and second partial words into the respective least significant bit of the two bytes of the resulting data word.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A data sink to reconstruct a digitized signal with a word width of n bits, by means of data transmitted on an m bit-wide channel of a data transmission system, such that n is greater than m, comprising a logic circuit to decompose each received data value into a partial word with a width less than m bits and an identifier, and to recombine the partial words to an original data word of the digitized signal by means of the identifier, where the logic circuit combines the two received data values with a width of m = 8 bits to a 16-bit-wide data word, and shifts the least significant byte of the data word by one bit to the left.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The data sink of claim 17~~8~~, where the logic circuit ~~comprising means for~~ set~~s~~ting the two least significant bits of the recombined data word to a specified value.

20. (New) A method of transmitting and receiving a digital data signal within a data transmission network having at least one channel, comprising the steps of:

digitizing an analog signal to provide an original digital data word having a predetermined number of bits;

reducing the predetermined number of bits of the original digital data word by shifting each one of at least a portion of the predetermined number of bits of the digital data word by one position in a predetermined direction, where at least two partial data words result, a first partial data word comprising the shifted bits together with at least one identifier bit, a second partial data word comprising the unshifted bits together with at least one identifier bit; and

transmitting the at least two partial data words over the at least one channel of the data transmission network.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the at least two transmitted partial data words;

recombining the at least two partial data words into the original data word by shifting each bit of one of the at least two partial data words in a direction opposite that of the predetermined direction; and

assigning a predetermined logic level to any bit of the recombined original digital data word that does not assume its logic level value as in the original digital data word as a result of the step of recombining.